

ENERGY TIDBITS

March 2005

Solar Domestic Hot Water System Rebate Program will be open to Michigan residents, businesses, or institutions that install solar domestic hot water systems in Michigan. A total of \$415,000 will be available for rebates statewide through October 1, 2005. Rebates will be based on the square footage of collector size for flat plate collectors or linear feet of collector for evacuated tube collectors. Rebates may not exceed \$4,000 or 50 percent of project cost. For more detailed information and program applications, please call the toll free telephone number (866) 846-7349.

Opportunities to Save with Renewable Energy: Focus on Wind Power will be held on April 21 in Warren. Learn the details on renewable energy and wind power at the second annual conference for the benefit of administrators, business officers, and building management officials in the educational, municipal and agricultural communities. The conference will cover understanding wind energy and turbines, regional electrical transmission, a case study of a recent utility scale turbine installed at an Illinois school, the Michigan Renewable Energy Program, energy conservation, financial aspects of Renewable Energy Certificates, legal considerations, and financing renewable energy projects. A sampling of representatives includes the Bureau Valley School District, Comerica Securities, Michigan Electric Transmission, Cantor Fitzgerald CO2e.com, Alternate Energy Solutions of Michigan, Wells Fargo Bank, and Kalamazoo Public Schools. The conference is hosted by Southgate Community School District. Conference registration is required. Cost is \$125. Call (586) 498-8840 or (734) 285-7273.

New Residential Energy Code was going to be effective February 28. The Michigan Assoc. of Home Builders has obtained an injunction in Ingham County Circuit Court to prevent this from happening.

Energy and the Economy Summit will be held at Lawrence Technological University on April 20. Members of the MIT Alliance, MIT Sloan School of Management Club and Lawrence Technological University will gather with industry, community and government leaders. The summit will be sponsored in part by Eaton Corp. and General Motors, in affiliation with the Harvard Business School Club of Michigan, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Society of Automotive Engineers. The summit will feature panel discussions with top decision makers including [Ken Whipple](#), Chairman of CMS Energy to focus on energy technology decision-making in government, business and research. For additional information go to www.ltu.edu/energysummit/

State Energy Program Special Project Grants have been announced by the U.S. Dept. of Energy. The Energy Office will compete with other states in a number of project areas related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Individuals are not eligible. Private and public organizations are eligible. The project areas include Clean Cities, Industrial Technology Outreach, Building Codes, Rebuild America, Building America, Solar Micro Inverters, Tall Tower Wind Measurements, Biomass, Integration with Air Quality Issues, and Federal Energy Management Program. The project descriptions and application instructions have been posted at www.michigan.gov/energyoffice. The state deadline is April 13.

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FRESH²TI CFL saves energy and eliminates odors with its titanium dioxide coating.
<http://www.lightbulbsdirect.com/page/001/CTGY/CF+Fresh>

Consumers Energy has been directed by the MPSC to file an application seeking approval of its Renewable Resources Program tariffs by March 31 and to issue a request for proposals by that same date so that commercial operation of the first renewable resources is in place by the end of 2005. Consumers Energy expects the renewable resource fund to support approximately 100 MW of wind energy or 75 MW of landfill gas production. MPSC expects these quantities to be sufficient to provide developers practical economies of scale. MPSC is not prescribing a specific quantity to be purchased by a particular time. However, it will use as a benchmark the penetration rates achieved in green pricing programs in other states: slightly more than 1% of all residential customers, and for programs in operation for 3 or more years, an average of 2%.

Intermediate Wind Energy Seminar will be held on March 26, 9 am - 4 pm at GLREA in Dimondale. Registration is \$55 non-members & \$40 members. www.glrea.org

Green Home Building Guidelines have been released by the National Assoc. of Home Builders and is available free at www.nahb.org/gbg. Currently, there are approximately thirty communities throughout the U.S. that have green home building programs in place or in development. The voluntary national guidelines will help facilitate the adoption of green home building practices and the formation of additional local programs.

Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's Third Annual Renewable Energy Conference has been postponed to Saturday, March 19, 8:30 am - 4 pm. www.cedarcreekinstitute.org

Electric Choice Report from the MPSC indicates that some 18,740 customers in 2004 participated in electric choice, an increase of nearly 45%. The number of megawatts served by Alternative Electric Suppliers (AESs) increased 22% to a total of 3,317 MW. The number of licensed AESs increased by two in 2004, bringing the total to 28.

Solar-Powered Solis Faucet from Sloan Valve incorporates touch-free electronics to conserve water and energy. Its storage cell transforms light from any source into electrical energy. Battery back-up can last up to 10 years. Single-hold faucet comes standard with .5 gpm aerator and an electronic on and off sensor.
<http://www.sloanvalve.com/>

Examining the Potential for Energy Efficiency to Help Address the Natural Gas Crisis in the Midwest, a new study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), indicates that a modestly aggressive energy efficiency campaign could produce billions of dollars in annual net cost savings for Midwest consumers who have been hit hard by recent increases in natural gas costs. ACEEE projects that by 2006, in a business-as-usual scenario, Midwest customers would spend approximately \$40 billion per year on natural gas, about 50% more than 2002. Because the Midwest

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imports almost 92% of the natural gas it consumes, tens of billions of dollars will be drained from the Midwest economy each year. According to the study, by 2010, new energy efficiency programs could save Midwest consumers approximately \$4 billion per year. In addition to these direct bill savings, ACEEE estimates that the effects of the energy efficiency policies and programs would produce over 30,000 net new jobs in the region by 2010. <http://aceee.org/pubs/u051.htm>

Photovoltaic Apprentice Training will be held on March 14-18, 9 am - 5 pm at GLREA in Dimondale. Registration is \$980 non-members & \$920 members. www.glrea.org

U.S. Dept. of Energy requests proposals from industrial end-users seeking a plant-wide assessment (PWA). A PWA is a comprehensive, systematic examination of plant energy efficiency leading to the identification of opportunities for energy use reductions in industrial facilities. Industrial plants in the following areas are of particular interest: Wood and lumber production and processing plants; flat glass manufacturing plants; underground mining facilities with processes in the areas of extraction, material handling, and material processing; and chemical plants that manufacture olefins either from natural gas or from petroleum, ammonia, sulfuric acid, methanol, and phosphates. \$1 million expected to be available, 10 awards anticipated, responses due 5/3/05. <https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/UNID/040C7DB08E79271B85256FA80064B7C1?OpenDocument> Refer to Sol# DE-PS36-05GO95009.

Economics of Green Building will be held on March 17, 7am - 12:30pm at the General Motors Corp. Centerpoint Campus North, Pontiac. For further information contact: <http://www.esd.org/2005GreenBuilding.htm> or contact Nancy Strodl at 248-353-0735 ext. 4152 or nstrodl@esd.org.



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